



## PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Docket No: Q67505

Akira KATO

Appln. No.: 09/996,750

Group Art Unit: 2686

Confirmation No.: 4885

Examiner: Joy Kimberly Contee

Filed: November 30, 2001

For: SERVICE SEARCHING SYSTEM

### **INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT** **UNDER 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, Applicant hereby notifies the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office of the documents which are listed on the attached PTO/SB/08 A & B (modified) form and listed herein and which the Examiner may deem material to patentability of the claims of the above-identified application.

1. Japanese Unexamined Patent Application Publication H11-73357, published March 16, 1999.
2. Japanese Unexamined Patent Application Publication H10-11375, published January 16, 1998.

One copy of each of the listed documents is submitted herewith.

The present Information Disclosure Statement is being filed after the later of three months from the application's filing date and the mailing date of the first Office Action on the

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

U.S. Appln. No.: 09/996,750

Atty. Docket No. Q67505

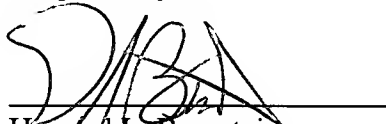
merits, but before a Final Office Action, Notice of Allowance, or an action that otherwise closes prosecution in the application (whichever is earlier), and therefore Applicant is filing concurrently herewith a Statement Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e). No fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p) is required.

In compliance with the concise explanation requirement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(3) for foreign language documents, Applicant encloses here with a copy of a corresponding Japanese Office Action dated October 26, 2004 and an English translation of the pertinent portions thereof which cites such documents and indicates the degree for relevance found by the foreign office.

The submission of the listed documents is not intended as an admission that any such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application. Applicant does not waive any right to take any action that would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove any listed document as a competent reference against the claims of the present application.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account. A duplicate copy of this paper is attached.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Howard L. Bernstein  
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WASHINGTON OFFICE

**23373**

CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: January 26, 2005



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**STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

The undersigned hereby states, upon information and belief:

That no item of information contained in the Information Disclosure Statement filed concurrently herewith was cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application, and, to the knowledge of the undersigned after making a reasonable inquiry, no item of information contained in the information disclosure statement was known to any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of said Information Disclosure Statement.

Respectfully submitted,

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Substitute for Form 1449 A &amp; B/PTO

Complete if Known

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE  
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**

(use as many sheets as necessary)

Sheet

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of

1

Application Number	09/996,750
Confirmation Number	4885
Filing Date	November 30, 2001
First Named Inventor	Akira KATO
Art Unit	2686
Examiner Name	Joy Kimberly Contee
Attorney Docket Number	Q67505

**U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Document Number		Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document
		Number	Kind Code <sup>2</sup> (if known)		
		US			
		US			
		US			
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**FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS**

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Foreign Patent Document			Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Translation <sup>6</sup>
		Country Code <sup>3</sup>	Number <sup>4</sup>	Kind Code <sup>5</sup> (if known)			
		JP	H11-73357	A1	03-16-1999		NO
		JP	H10-11375	A1	01-16-1998		NO

**NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS**

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city, and/or country where published.	Translation <sup>6</sup>

Examiner Signature

Date Considered

\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

<sup>1</sup>Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). <sup>2</sup>See Kind Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at [www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov), MPEP 901.04 or in the comment box of this document. <sup>3</sup>Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST. 3). <sup>4</sup>For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. <sup>5</sup>Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. <sup>6</sup>Applicant is to indicate here if English language Translation is attached.